Dear Dick, 2/26/92

I'm sure glad you sent me that Donohue story I presume Livingstone faxed to C&G!

We'd just gotten home, about 3, when the phone started. And it hasn't stopped. Only calls about that were from the Post, which is doing a story in the Style section for tomorrow. So I knew more about the book and what relates to it and something about the alleged evidence. I'd been gentle in my criticism of Donahue but said the theory is impossible, and why. The reporter phoned me back a minute ago about something else and then told me that "they" told him (phone again!) that I criticized the book because I'm "trashed in it." Of which, obviously, I neither knew a thing nor could have!

They are making an effort with it! Had a call from London about it yesterday.

Coming home from today's tests there was a minute of advertising on WTOP, DC's all-news station. Probably more.

The publisher's explanation tries to blame it all on refusal to respond with more than a blanket denial. It makes no reference to any effort to confirm by independent experts or asking any experts for an opinion or criticism of the theory.

If you look at the picture across two pages in the appendix of Whitewash II you'll see that three and a fraction seconds before the fatal shot all those sitting in the followup car are unconcerned, one smiling, that those on the running board have not reacted, and the unnamed agent, Hickey, is sitting on one of the jump seats, another agent on the other. Can you imagine him reacting, working the rifle out from beneath the jump seat or from under his feet, standing and firing all in three plus a fraction seconds?

The motorcade was down by the triple underpass by the time he got the rifle out.

I hope the Post quotes them on their explanation for my criticism and points out that they'd kept the book secret and I had not seen it or been spoken to about it by them. It will limn their crap.

I hope this leads to a redefinition of "malice."

The Secret Service did say the rifle had not been fired. What else was necessary? At least to cause a real effort to confirm of refute by St. Martin's?

I'll get an extra Post in the morning if the story is worth sending to you.

Thanks and best,

Harold